

Hamilton Field, Storm Water Pumping Plants
(Facility No. 35, 39)
Perimeter Road at northeast corner of base
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-CA

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HAMILTON FIELD Storm Water Pumping Plants (Facility Nos. 35, 39)

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Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Storm Water Pumping Plants
Facility Nos. 35 and 39 (Perimeter Road at northeast corner of base)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; 8: 544720/4212220;
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

Significance:

Buildings 35 and 39, designed by the Quartermaster General's Office, were essential to base operations as the pumps kept the bay waters from the air field and other low lying areas. The buildings are significant as an example of the application of an important architectural trend (Spanish Colonial Revival) adapted to reflect California's mission heritage in a dramatic departure from traditional military architecture.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

These two Spanish Eclectic structures appear to be of exactly the same design, but were built in 1933 and 1940. They are small (20-foot-square) one-story rectangular facilities with Mission tile gable roofs with louvers in the gable ends. Both are made of 12-inch-hollow tile bricks with stucco facing. The structures have pilasters on the corners and a solid frieze beneath the gable roofs. Facility No. 35 has a frame enclosed porch addition on the east side, accessed by wooden steps, and a frame gable-roofed extension on the east. Facility No. 39 has a shed-roofed room over a metal stairway on the east side and a frame gable roofed structure on the west side. Pumps and large pipelines are located beneath both structures, with pipelines extending east into San Pablo Bay.

The interior of each pump station consists of a single room with concrete slab floors. The walls are painted hollow tile bricks. Ceilings are peaked and the truss system and joists are exposed. A steel I-beam extends across each room at the ceiling line and served as a track. The I-beam in Facility 39 still has a manually operated hoist attached. The pump room is illuminated with two drop lights mounted onto a roof truss. Each has a porcelain canopy

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and metal hood. The pumps were installed after 1960 and are made by the Johnson Gear and Manufacturing Company, Berkeley.

Both stations appear to be in original condition except for the 1940s frame additions which do not significantly alter the historic appearance of the structures.

Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

The storm pump plants were constructed in 1934 during the initial construction phase and were part of a sewage and storm drain compound. The sewer plant and treatment ponds have been removed, but these pump plants, designed by Nurse's staff, remain.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section 8 in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

See the following project Field Record work:

Facility No. 35, Storm Water Pumping Plant: roll 28, exposures 10-12, roll 29, exposures 1-6.

Facility No. 39, Storm Water Pumping Plant: roll 2B, exposures 1-9.

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

Project Information:

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible

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for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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